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(*e*) *Steps taken to admit those not subscribing.*—The Deputy Panchayat Officers and Deputy Inspector of Schools during the course of their visits to the panchayat for purposes of audit and inspection of the panchayat and the school respectively are advising the Executive authority of the panchayat to take steps to get the teachers admitted into the Provident Fund Scheme.

2. None of the panchayats in the Kanyakumari district maintains schools and so the particulars are nil.

Appendix II.

[Vide item VI on page 10 supra.]

Address by Shri Bishnuram Medhi, Governor of Madras, to the Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly and Council assembled together at the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 8th February 1958.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislature,

It gives me great pleasure to meet you all in this Joint Session of the Legislature. My first duty in this House to-day is to express my deep sense of sorrow on the untimely demise of my predecessor Sri A. J. John. By his unassuming manners and quiet charm, he had endeared himself to the people of this State within the short time he was destined to preside over the affairs of this State. The loss sustained by you is almost irreparable and I shall need all your affection, good-will and sympathy to do some justice to the high office he had filled with ease and grace.

2. I have come to this State from Assam. Like Madras, Assam is far away from the capital of the Government of India. As Chief Minister, I had frequently to face problems which arise from a backward economy and remoteness from the Centre. In attempting to find solutions for these problems, I have been impressed by the need to preserve, nourish and develop that sense of national solidarity, which had helped us in the past to win our freedom and which is helping us today to achieve economic and cultural progress.

3. It is in this spirit that we should approach the problem of the Official Language over which public opinion has been somewhat disturbed during the last few months, ever since the Report of the Official Language Commission was published. It was unfortunate that that Report should have contained expressions of opinion of a controversial nature on such matters as the medium of instruction in Colleges and the language to be used in High Courts. The Government of Madras, therefore, felt it necessary to examine the entire problem afresh and to make appropriate recommendations to the Government of India and the Committee of Parliament which is considering the Report of the Official Language Commission. I have every hope, in view of recent soothing developments, that the views embodied in our Memorandum will receive sympathetic consideration by the Government of

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India and the Parliament, and will, in due course, form the basis of long-term policy in relation to the Official Language of the Indian Union. So far as the Official Language of our State is concerned, the policy is well-settled and embodied in the Official Language Act. As the first step in implementing that policy, Tamil has been introduced as the language of 1,922 offices on last Pongal day.

4. The Government have decided to accept the Award of Sri Pataskar in respect of adjustments of the border with Andhra. The detailed arrangements required for implementing the Award, are being worked out by an inter-State Committee of Officials, and the necessary legislation will be introduced in Parliament shortly. With the elimination of this source of discord, we may hope to have ushered in an era of harmony and close co-operation between the two neighbouring States.

5. The Zonal Council for the Southern States has already met twice and discussed matters of common interest. Inter-State Committees have been set up to consider, among other matters, the safeguards necessary for linguistic minorities and the utilization of the power and water resources of the region for common benefit. The representatives of the Kerala and Madras Governments have already met to discuss the sharing of the waters of the west-flowing rivers in the Parambikulam area, and let us hope that in this new atmosphere of friendliness and cordiality, an agreement beneficial to both States will soon be reached.

6. The future pattern of Local Self-Government is now engaging the close attention of the Government. There seems to be a general measure of agreement that the District Board is far too unwieldy a unit to bring the people into close touch with the problems of Local Administration. A Committee of this Legislature is now considering the White Paper on the subject, and let us hope that we may soon be able to bring in legislation on an agreed basis.

7. In the field of land reforms, we have already made laws for ensuring fixity of tenure and fair rent to the tiller. In order to protect the interests of the 'Kaiaeruvaramdars' and 'Mattuvaramdars' of Tiruchirapalli district, an Ordinance has been passed declaring them as cultivating tenants within the meaning of the Tenancy Act of 1955 and 1956. But age-old agrarian practices die hard, and it will take time before the new laws are properly understood and generally accepted by the people. The question of fixing a ceiling on holdings is now under the active consideration of the Government. In order to avoid further complications pending the finalization of these proposals, we must immediately arrest the tendency to acquire land above the contemplated ceiling. The Government, therefore, propose to bring in interim legislation fixing a provisional ceiling and banning the further acquisition of land in excess of that ceiling.

8. Seasonal conditions have been fair, and crop prospects for the year are good. Relentless efforts are being made to achieve the target of 12·79 lakhs tons of additional food production fixed

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for the Plan period. Schemes for the supply of chemical fertilizers, for the raising of green manures, and for the production of improved seeds in State Seed Farms, are being accelerated. Special attention is being paid to the Minor Irrigation Programme including the de-silting of tanks and the utilization of underground water sources. Taking advantage of the good storage in the Mettur and Bhavani Reservoirs, an extra short-term food crop is being raised in the Cauvery delta and the Coimbatore district. The anticipation of a good harvest has eased food prices, and there may not be need to keep fair price shops indefinitely.

9. The Second Five-Year Plan of the State is making fair progress. Shortage of foreign exchange is there, but fortunately for us, the exchange commitments on our major projects like the Periyar and the Kundah, have already been met in full. The Neiveli Lignite Project has been included in the core of the Central Plan, and, therefore, the implementation of that project may be expected to proceed without hitch. The programme of rural electrification is making commendable progress and the target of 1,000 villages for the current year may be exceeded. The inauguration by the Prime Minister, of the Industrial Estate at Guindy last month, is a major event on the side of small-scale industries. Out of the 90 factory units envisaged for that estate, 52 units have been completed and allotted to small industrialists.

10. In our search for fresh resources to implement the Plan, we are intensifying the Small Savings Movement in the districts. A target of Rs. 10 crores in Small Savings, has been set, and a special drive lasting about a fortnight is being launched in each district. District officials and non-officials are striving hard on this drive, and the response of the people so far has indeed been gratifying. With an extra spurt we may hope to reach the target by the end of March and incidentally indicate a practical way of reducing the gap in internal finance for the Plan.

11. Legislative measures for replacing the following Ordinances, will come up for your immediate consideration :—

(*a*) The Madras General Sales Tax (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1957 allowing dealers in cloth to compound the additional sales tax, for a sum equivalent to the additional excise duty which would have been payable on the stocks had they remained with the producer or manufacturer.

(*b*) The Madras Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Registration) (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1957, providing for the exemption of tobacco products from the tax leviable under the Madras Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Registration) Act, if additional excise duty had been paid on them.

(*c*) The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection and Payment of Fair Rent (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, declaring that the "Kaiaeruvaramdars" and "Mattuvaramdars" in the Tiruchirappalli district should be deemed to be cultivating tenants for purposes of the Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955, and the Madras Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956.

(*d*) An Ordinance for extending the life of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1949 (in respect of electricity), for a period of five years from the 26th January 1958.

12. The other new legislative measures proposed for this session are—

(*a*) A Bill to amend the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, with a view to providing for the more effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act, and also to remove difficulties experienced in the administration of the Act.

(*b*) A Bill for the administration of the incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms and other Hindu religious and charitable institutions in the Kanyakumari area and for the extension of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, to that area.

(*c*) A comprehensive Bill to amend the various sections of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, which were held invalid by the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court.

(*d*) A Bill to regulate the conditions of work in beedi industrial premises in this State.

(*e*) A Bill to amend the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, providing for more liberal maternity benefits for women workers.

(*f*) A Bill to provide for the grant of a specified number of festival holidays including national holidays to industrial workers in the State.

13. This is essentially a Budget session to consider the Demands for Grants for the financial year 1958–59. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, will review the progress of the Plan and explain the financial policies of the Ministry. Before I conclude, let me express the hope that you will conduct your deliberations with your usual forbearance and dignity, and extend to you my best wishes for a successful session.